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12 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I
13 understand our next three presenters are not here and
14 Mr. O'Brien came a little late and missed it, so our
15 final speaker tonight will be Mr. William O'Brien.

16 MR. O'BRIEN: Happy St. Patrick's Day to
17 everyone.

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

19 MR. O'BRIEN: I'm a Lottery agent for the
20 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I've been an agent for
21 19 years. I'm in a suburb of Boston, Foxboro, it's a
22 small town, it's home of the New England Patriots but
23 it's a small town. When I was originally asked to
24 speak today, and now that I'm here I'm hearing about

1 the casino, I thought it was just about the
2 Massachusetts State Lottery, I didn't realize it, so
3 I'm going to change my original speech.

4 As I said, I've been here for 19 years and
5 I've seen it grow from a small portion of my business
6 to a large portion. The Massachusetts State Lottery,
7 it seems to me, a private sole-proprietor businessman,
8 is very well run, a lot of support. In our store, it's
9 a small store but we have Keno, we have posted signs
10 for anyone who has any gambling problems to call a 1-
11 800 number if there is any compulsion, or any problems,
12 which I think is good. It's posted throughout the
13 store, the Lottery supports that, makes sure that that
14 is posted throughout the store. As I said, over the
15 years it has grown to be a bigger portion of my
16 business.

17 Also, I was a former chairman of the
18 finance committee in my town, from 1990 to 1993, and
19 you see such a, what percentage of the money goes to
20 cities and towns to support the schools or the fire
21 department or the police department or public works, et
22 cetera. Without that money, I can't image what the
23 Commonwealth would do, it would be a large tax
24 increase. We have now a five percent, it would

1 probably be seven percent without the Lottery. Over
2 the years it has grown a little bit each year, so the
3 towns have been able to count on a growth going back to
4 the local towns to support these programs.

5 As far as sitting here and listening to
6 talk about a casino I can't imagine what it would do to
7 the State Lottery. To me, it would devastate it, there
8 are only so many dollars, I think, that could be spent
9 for gambling. And at least now -- per capita we have
10 the highest percentage per capita for any lottery in
11 the United States and I think it is due to the fact
12 that it is so well run.

13 As a Lottery agent, I'm on the side
14 complaining that there is not enough Lottery
15 advertising, at least in Massachusetts, on the Lottery,
16 I think their advertising budget is very low, and
17 again, resulting in a bigger return to the cities and
18 towns in the commonwealth.

19 I mean, I think it's good that you're going
20 around, I imagine, throughout the country, getting
21 opinions from other people throughout the country. But
22 I think in this state it has worked well, people enjoy
23 gambling, people feel it's fun, it's relaxation and I
24 think it's just a way of life, it's a freedom that we

1 have in this country that anyone, no matter what, if
2 they have a dollar they have a chance to become a
3 multimillionaire. Then again, if you have a problem,
4 you have resources to deal with it, whether it be
5 gambling or gamblers anonymous, I think they should
6 support those problems also.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

9 That is our final witness for the evening.
10 I'd like to thank the Commissioners--

11 MR. WILHELM: Madame chair, we've got a
12 Nevada majority, can't we vote on something?

13 (Laughter)

14 COMMISSIONER LANNI: We do at the end of
15 every meeting.

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That speaks well of the
17 Nevada contingent.

18 I'd like to thank the staff of the Westin
19 for all their logistical help and also thank the
20 National Gambling Commission staff, it is a very small
21 staff indeed and I know you have all worked very hard
22 and it is very much appreciated, not only by the
23 Commissioners but by the citizens who you work on

1 behalf of. With that, the Commission meeting is
2 adjourned.

3 (Whereupon, at 5:30 p.m., the meeting was
4 adjourned.)_